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J. L. Brown
"PLAINSMAN, PLANT A TREE." Agriculture.

*Before you do so Study Carefully the Following Pages which
were Written and Prepared Expressly for the Guid-
ance and Instruction of Our Patrons
and Friends in the Art of*

Planting, Pruning and Cultivating Fruit Trees, Etc.,

— BY —

J. L. BROWN,

— OF —

THE MIDWAY NURSERIES

KEARNEY, NEB.

*Keep this for Reference. It is of Great Value to Everyone who
Loves Fruit. A copy by mail for 5c in postage
stamps. Free to Our Customers.*

✻ 1891. ✻

RHONE BROTHERS, PRINTERS,
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA.

TO OUR PATRONS:

I have long known that there is need of a practical guide for the use of tree planters in the West. Our people have spent enough money for trees and plants that if they had been rightly handled, planted, cultivated and cared for we would now live in a veritable Paradise.

The business of selling, handling and shipping nursery stock has been done mostly by persons having no practical knowledge of the work to such an extent that the people have, in many cases, justly become disgusted with the whole thing and are now incline to treat every one who offers to sell trees, plants etc., as a rascal, liar and robber. It is my purpose in issuing this little work to help the people in the way of beautifying their homes by imparting useful knowledge in the art of planting trees. The growing of trees has long been my chosen life work. I have been growing and planting here at Kearney for six years. I have good reason to be proud of my success, as many of the leading business men of this city will testify, that there are more trees of my planting growing successfully than of all other planters put together.

My long experience and careful attention to all the details makes failure with our stock almost impossible if our instructions are faithfully followed.

I will cheerfully give instructions for special management of trees and plants by mail if parties wanting information will enclose stamp for reply. Be sure to write name, postoffice and State plain. Address inquiries to J. L. Brown, Kearney, Neb.

WINTERING NURSERY STOCK PROCURED IN THE FALL.

It is not advisable to set out trees in the Fall in the West, but the practice of procuring them in the Fall is becoming more and more popular, as experience has proved its advantages. In the Fall we are not hurried with our own planting; the season for shipping is comparatively long and the weather not nearly so changeable as in the Spring. They are on hand and can be planted early in the season, as soon, in fact, as the ground will work good. To insure success, select a dry spot where no water will stand during the Winter. Dig a trench deep enough to admit one layer of roots, and sloping enough to admit the trees to lay at an angle of not more than thirty degrees with the ground. Having placed one layer of trees in this trench, cover them with mellow earth, extending well up the bodies and *see that this is firmly packed*. Be sure there are no open spaces left among the roots to admit air. (If the ground is very dry use plenty of water on the roots.) Then

add another layer of trees, over-lapping the first, and continuing as at first, until all are in.

As soon as this is done cover the tops entirely with dirt, so that they will be protected from hot sun and drying winds. If the work is well done they will come out in first-class condition for planting. Raspberries and other small stuff can be planted where they are wanted to grow by covering with earth and on top of that straw or other litter. They should be carefully uncovered in the Spring, to give them a chance to grow.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CUSTOMERS.

Be on hand promptly on day set for delivery. Be prepared with plenty of damp straw and other covering to protect your trees on the road from sun and wind. *This is very important.* Remember—We guarantee that our trees shall be in good condition when delivered. We have a reputation to maintain. We are equally interested with you in the growth of the stock we deliver. You want it to succeed for the fruit, and to beautify and ornament your homes. Every tree that lives and gives satisfaction sells for us another. We want customers that will *work for success*. We want no customers that will abuse our stock and let it die for lack of attention. Let all such keep their money. We don't want it.

“Give fools their gold and knaves their power,
Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall,
Who sows a field or trains a flower,
Or plants a tree is more than all.”

“For he who blesses most is blest,
And God and man shall own his worth,
Who toils to leave as his bequest,
An added beauty to the earth.”

Selection of Varieties—Is very important. Not long since we received an order for 64 apple trees which called for 22 varieties. Four trees was the largest number selected of one kind. Eight varieties would have been plenty to have chosen for an orchard of that size.

Do not select too many varieties. A few varieties *well chosen* is most profitable. Customers without experience will have a better selection by leaving the choice of varieties to us. Simply state the number wanted of each season—Summer, Fall and Winter.

The apple is the leading orchard fruit. The trees are both

useful and ornamental. There is no other acre of the farm that will yield as good returns and give more comfort and pleasure in and about the home than the one planted to apples and crab trees. For this purpose select the best ground you have. Avoid a southwestern exposure, I find the best bearing orchards in Buffalo County on southeastern and northern slopes of the uplands.

Preparation of Ground—Is of the utmost importance to secure success. This is best done by *very deep* plowing in the Fall. Back furrow in lands 25 or 30 feet wide, leaving the open furrow where the row of trees are to stand. Let the plow go deep as it can—run back and forth in the trench several times. It would be an improvement to cross plow, then set tree where trenches cross. If the plowing is well done there will be no need of digging holes.

Do not expose roots to sun and wind. Put trees in a wagon, cover roots with wet straw, drive along trench, take out one tree at a time, smooth a place where it is to stand, throwing in a few shovels of fine surface soil. On this set your tree, first cutting back all bruised and broken roots. Cut sloping from the underside. Set in place, cover over roots with best surface soil. If dry, pour on a pail of water. Cover the wet earth so that tree will stand. Pass on to the next place. After trees are all in, go around and finish up by filling in with fine dirt, tramp it down *solid* without bruising roots. I often use a maul for this purpose. Level up to the surface with good, mellow soil, leaving the last covering loose to act as a *mulch*. *There is no other material worth half as much for mulching as fine loose earth.* Use no manure in the soil about trees, as it will only be a breeding place for all kinds of insects, injurious alike to tree and especially to roots. After trees are set, put on the harrow and thoroughly pulverize the surface soil. If necessary use the plow to turn dirt back into the trenches; harrow again, leave the surface fine and level. Corn planted among trees, running rows east and west, is good to break the force of our southern winds during the growing season. *Never* sow small grain in the orchard, put in corn, potatoes, pumpkins or other cultivated crops. Cultivate as you would to produce 100 bushel corn to the acre. Cultivate often, until first of July, then quit, to let the new growth harden up for winter. When the leaves begin to fall run the cultivator again—shallow, leaving the surface loose for winter. This will prevent the ground from becoming hard and cracked by winter drought. Cracking of the ground in Winter, by allowing it to become hard, is the cause of root killing. As soon as

frost is out in Spring—while growing trees to bearing size—cultive *shallow*, so as to cause *early* growth, leaving off as recommended above—July 1st. Pursuing the course outlined each year for 4 or 5 years will complete the work to bearing age. The trees will have made a strong, healthy growth and be well established with the roots deep in the ground. While growing trees need constant attention, *do not prune too much*. If a branch starts where it is not needed *rub or pull it off* while young and tender. *Never* cut off a large branch if it can be avoided. *Grow* a tree into the right form instead of letting them shape themselves and then trying to remedy defects by sawing and hacking off useless branches. This is cruel and will result in damage. Rub off many of the branches that start on the north side, thus keeping that side lighter so that the tree will not lean so much that way. *Head trees low*. *Protect with timber belts on south and west only*. No need of protection from any other quarter. In case land can not be prepared as directed by plowing, dig *large, deep holes*, fill in bottom with good surface soil on this, set trees a trifle deeper than they stood in nursery. Visit trees often during growing season. Take along a hoe or steel rake. Stir the soil close around the tree all through May and June. Be sure to move the dirt where it touches the stem. Thus you scatter the eggs of the borer and prevent their hatching and entering the tree.

A Wash for Trees—Is made as follows: Dissolve 1 pound of copperas in 2 qts of boiling water. Add this to a pail of ordinary lime whitewash. This will cause it to thicken. Add a handful of common salt; thin with water.

The wash is now ready for use and can be kept in a cellar, ready to apply at any time by not allowing it to dry up. Apply to trunk of trees in May and June to keep out borers. Apply in Fall to keep off rabbits. Applied last of January or first of February will prevent *sun scald*. This wash is cheap, and easily applied and is useful on all kinds of trees.

After four or five years of good cultivation the orchard will be old enough to begin bearing. Now reverse the order of cultivation, as we do not want such early growth. Cultivation early in Spring will now be dangerous to the fruit buds. Causing them to start into growth so soon renders them liable to be caught by late freezes. The object now is to retard very early growth. I would cultivate late. Say, after corn planting. We want slower growth to insure fruitfulness. Cultivate just enough to keep the ground from becoming too dry and hard. Look after the insects and destroy them. Be sure

to have a good, heavy coat of the wash on trees before February, as that is the time the sun gets in its work on the body; never at any other time, if trees are in good growing condition.

Cutting back at time of planting is a matter of dispute. The usual instructions are: To cut back all branches to one-third their length at planting time. My own practice is to watch the trees closely and if from any cause they do not start into vigorous growth cut all such back. But, in case a tree is well formed and starts to grow vigorously soon after transplanting, I let it alone. Old trees for planting need to be cut back more than young ones, large more than small. The first and second years after transplanting are the more critical in the life of a tree and it is very important that they receive the best care. Plant Pears, Peaches, Plums, Cherries and Apricots deep, as they are usually budded, and ought to be planted deeper than they stood in the nursery. Plums and Apricots require close planting. A southeast slope is best for grapes. Plow the ground deep. At planting, cut the tops backs two or three good eyes. Cut off the roots, leaving them two or three inches long. Eight feet apart, each way, is close enough; eight by ten or twelve feet is better. Give good, clean, culture the first and second years to get them well established. They can not succeed in weeds. A wire trellis, using three good, strong wires put up after the second year is best for the ordinary planter. The best results are obtained after they come into bearing by annual pruning in November or December. Cut back the new growth to two or three buds, take them off the trellis, lay on the ground and protect with corn-stalks or other coarse covering. When they show signs of starting in Spring uncover and put up on trellis.

Small fruits require good cultivation and rich ground. Plant Currants and Gooseberries four feet apart, each way. Plant Black Raspberries four by six feet. After they become well established, say the second year after planting, the tops of the canes should be pinched out at the height of three feet. This causes them to assume the bush form and throw out side branches. Cut back the side shoots in Spring to 12 or 16 inches, according to growth. Ohio, late, Tyler or Souhegan, early, are doing splendidly here; are hardy and need no covering.

Roses—Require a rich, warm soil and high culture. Perpetual or Remontant roses bloom only on wood of the present season's growth. To secure this, cut back in Fall to within three to five inches of the ground and cover with coarse litter for Winter. They are hardy, but will give more bloom by being

protected through the Winter. As soon as the bloom begins to fade, cut off the heps or seed pods. This saves the strength of the plant and causes new buds to appear.

Monthly Roses are tender and are seldom successfully wintered in the open ground here. It is best to take them up and keep dormant in a cellar and plant in beds again in Spring. Always cut them back to the ground when planted. Flowering and ornamental shrubs require about the same cultivation as Roses. In fact, good culture is the main thing to do to succeed best. Trees, shrubs, plants and flowers will not bear neglect and ill usage any better than the animals we have in our care. It is just as cruel to neglect and abuse one as the other.

Never order Evergreens in the Fall. Plant in Spring and partly shade from the direct rays of the sun. Forest trees, before planting for timber belts, should be cut back, both top and root. It is not possible in a work of this kind to enter into all the little details of care and management of trees and plants, but if the instructions herein given are followed, success is quite sure. I would respectfully request every customer to report his success or failure. We want to hear from every order we send out.

Those who have a contract with us to replace all that die the first year at one-half the cost, should send in their order, accompanied by the cash, early. Not forgetting to give name, postoffice and nearest railroad station *plainly*. We want to do right with all and be a benefit to every patron. Address all reports, giving number of your order, to

J. L. BROWN,
Kearney, Neb.

SOME OF THE FRUITS DOING WELL.

The following list of Apples are all doing well here:

Summer—Yellow Transparent, Tetofsky, Red June, Red Astrachan, Sweet June, Sops of Wine, Cooper's Early, Duchess, Saxon, Early Pennock.

Fall—Wealthy, Haas, Alexander, Maiden Blush, Utter's Red, Wolf River, Price's Sweet, Colvert, Fameuse, Flora Bell.

Winter—Jonathan, Ben Davis, Iowa Russet, Perry Russet, Iowa Blush, Clark's Orange, Grimes' Golden, Lansingburg, Pewaukee, Walbridge, Janat, Wine Sap, Mann, Broadwell Sweet, Fulton, Park's Keeper, Dominee, Missouri Pippin, Salome. We have many other varieties in stock.

✓ *Crabs*—Whitney, No. 20, Martha, Hyslop, Blushing Maid,
 ✓ Hew's Va., ✓ Sylvan Sweet, ✓ Brier Sweet, ✓ Minnesota, ✓ Soulard,
 ✓ Brown's and others.

The following list of Apples are among the hardiest and will be best for the average planter:

Summer—Tetofsky, Yellow Transparent, Duchess, Red Astrachan.

✓ *Fall*—Wealthy, Haas, Alexander, Utter's Red, Wolf River,
 ✓ Colvert, ✓ Fameuse, ✓ Price's Sweet.

✓ *Winter*—Walbridge, Iowa Blush, Clark's Orange, Salome,
 ✓ Lansingburg, ✓ Mann, ✓ Grimes' Golden, Ben Davis. The crabs are all hardy.



you.

J. L. BROWN & CO.
 Be on hand promptly to receive it. Bring this notice with

..... No. 189.....

..... on the..... day of

Your Bill of Stock ordered from us will be delivered at

..... 189..... KEARNEY, NEB.....

DEAR SIR: